

CONFIDENTIAL

20 June 1983

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

Chief, Domestic Security Branch, OS

FROM : J. Kenneth McDonald
Chief, DCI History StaffSUBJECT : Opening of package of classified documents and delay
in delivery to the Department of the Army's Center of
Military History

1. As the Secretary of the History Staff, [REDACTED] reported to the Deputy Chief of the Domestic Security Branch on 3 June 1983, the U. S. Army's Center of Military History informed us on 1 June 1983, that a package of classified documents we sent them by courier on 26 April 1983 was not delivered until 31 May 1983, and that while the contents were intact, the package had arrived with its outer envelope missing and the inner envelope opened. The Army's investigation of this matter has determined that both the delay and unsealing happened while the package was in the hands of Army couriers. We cooperated with the Army investigation, and in the account that follows we have the information concerning the Army's handling of this package from Special Agent John P. Hott of the Army's 902nd Military Intelligence Group, Ft. Meade, Maryland (telephone 301 677 7430).

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2. On 25 April 1983 I wrote a letter (copy attached) to Dr. Vincent Demma, a historian in the Army's Center of Military History, releasing and forwarding to him 28 classified documents (10 Top Secret and 18 Secret), which we had received for CIA review from the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston. My cover letter and the 28 documents were properly double-wrapped, marked and sealed, and sent to Dr. Demma by CIA courier on 26 April 1983 (copy of our receipt attached).

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3. On 27 April 1983 the CIA courier, [REDACTED] delivered the package to the Special Security Detachment at Headquarters, Department of the Army, Pentagon. A Sergeant First Class [REDACTED] signed the receipt for [REDACTED] (copy attached). While this package was at the Army's Pentagon facility it was apparently opened to insure that it contained nothing of higher classification than the addressee was authorized to receive.

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(b)(1)

4. According to the Army investigator, Special Agent Hott, there is no regular delivery service from the Special Security Detachment at Headquarters, Department of the Army, to the Center of Military History, which is located in the Pulaski Building, 20 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.,

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ARMY review completed.

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Washington, DC. The Army Special Security Representative at the Pulaski Building, a Sergeant First Class [redacted], reportedly did not pick up this package from the Pentagon until 31 May 1983. After collecting the package at the Pentagon, and before delivering it to the Center of Military History, Sergeant [redacted] also opened the package, to insure that it contained nothing of higher classification than the addressee was authorized to receive. Having opened the outer wrapping, he apparently decided not to re-wrap the package, but rather delivered it in only the unsealed inner envelope.

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5. On 31 May 1983 Sergeant [redacted] delivered the inner envelope to Ms. Cathy Armstrong, the Top Secret Control Officer at the Center of Military History, evidently by leaving it at her desk without getting a receipt for it. It was then that Ms. Armstrong called the History Staff to report the delay in delivery and other irregularities. She also reported the matter to Army security, and Special Agent Hott was assigned the investigation. Special Agent Hott telephoned me on 2 June 1983, asking for advice and assistance and emphasizing that he was not investigating any person or activity in CIA. On 3 June 1983 I was able to inform him that the CIA courier, [redacted] had a receipt from the Army's Pentagon mail room dated 27 April 1983 and signed by a [redacted]. On Monday, 6 June 1983, Special Agent Hott called me to report his findings, as noted above. He also undertook to send me a copy of his final report (or memorandum for the record) when completed.

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6. Since these documents do not appear to have been out of authorized hands at any point, even in their delayed and badly handled delivery by the Army courier, I am not certain that a damage assessment report is called for. Although as far as we know none of these 28 documents (all of which concern the Vietnam War and date from 1962 and 1963) from the Kennedy Library has yet been downgraded or declassified, I suspect that if submitted for classification review, many (and perhaps all) of these documents would be downgraded or declassified. In any event, I shall be glad to have your advice on this matter.

7. In my view this incident raises two questions about the Army's handling of packages of classified material received from CIA's courier service:

- a. Why is there no provision for regular and expeditious delivery of packages from the Army's security facility at the Pentagon to the Army's Center of Military History at the Pulaski Building?
- b. Is it in fact normal procedure for Army couriers routinely to open double-wrapped, sealed, properly marked and receipted packages of classified material to determine the classification level of their contents?

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8. Please call me at extension if I can provide any further information. I shall forward to you any reports I receive from the Army concerning this matter.

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J. Kenneth McDonald

Attachments

Distribution:

Orig - Adse

✓ - HS Chrono w/att

1 - Security File w/att

1 - Demma/JFK/VN case w/att

1 - JKM w/o att

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TOP SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

25 April 1983

Dr. Vincent Demma
The Center of Military History
Department of the Army
Room 4115 Pulaski Building
20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20314

Dear Dr. Demma:

I am forwarding the following six CIA-originated documents from your research at the Kennedy Library, which we can release for your work on an official Army history on the Vietnam War:

TOP SECRET Documents Nos. 9C and 9D,
SECRET Documents Nos. 9A, 9B, 9E, and 10J.

We shall also forward the following 22 documents even though CIA did not originate them, since the Department of the Army and the originating agency have both signed the "Interagency Agreement on Access for Official Agency Historians":

TOP SECRET Documents Nos. 9P, 9Q, 9R, 9S, 10A, 10B, 10E, 10F,
SECRET Documents Nos. 9F, 9G, 9H, 9J, 9K, 9L, 9M, 9N, 9O, 10C, 10D, 10G, 10H, 10I.

We shall also enclose a copy of the Kennedy Library manifest.

The usual caveats apply concerning further CIA review before any declassification, downgrading or unclassified publication of material from CIA-originated documents. I shall enclose a copy of the "CIA Access Policy" for your information.

I am sending a copy of this letter, to Ms. Suzanne K. Forbes at the Kennedy Library, and to Dr. James E. O'Neill, Assistant Archivist for Presidential Libraries, National Archives and Records Service.

Distribution:

Orig - Adse
1 - HS Chrono
1 - Demma/JFK/VN case

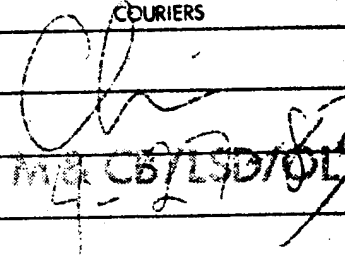
Yours sincerely,

J. Kenneth McDonald
Chief Historian

Enclosures

This letter is UNCLASSIFIED
when separated from the
appended documents.

TOP SECRET

FROM (BELOW)		DATE (BELOW)		RECEIPT NO. A-1135-1		
Dr. J. Kenneth McDonald		26 Apr 83				
Chief Historian		TYPE OF MATERIALS		SIGNATURE OF COURIERS		DATE
		QTY.	ENVELOPE(S)			
Ft. Annapolis, Wash., DC 20505		1				
TO Dr. Vincenz Demma		QTY.	PACKAGE(S)			
The Center of Military History		OTHER		RETURNED TO MR CB/LSD/OL		
Department of the Army						
Room 4115 Pulaski Building						
20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW						
Washington, DC 20514						
				DATE AND TIME OF RECEIPT		
				271345L APR 83		

FORM 10-77

2600

USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

DOCUMENT/COURIER RECEIPT

(15-24-25)

(b)(3)

(b)(1)

AT (RECEIVED)		DATE (RECEIVED)		RECEIPT NO. A 109601		DESCRIPTION OF DOCUMENTS	
Mr. L. L. McLeod		26 AUG 83				CLASSIFICATION	DOCUMENT NO.
Chief Historian		TYPE OF MATERIALS		SIGNATURE OF COURIER		DATE	TIME
311 Adams Street, DC 20005		CTY	ENVELOPE(S)	Ch	4-27-83		
Dr. Vincent H. Brown		CTY	PACKAGE(S)				
The Center of Military History		OTHER					
Department of the Army						SHORT TITLE AND ATTACHMENTS	
Room 4115 Polaski Building						UNCLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS	
20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW						DO NOT USE APPROPRIATE CHANNELS	
Washington, DC 20001						AND PROCEDURES FOR RECEIVING	
SIGNATURE OF RECIPIENT				DATE AND TIME OF RECEIPT			
USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS		DOCUMENT/COURIER RECEIPT		(15-24125)		SIGNATURE (ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF ABOVE DOCUMENTS)	
PC 10-77 2600						DATE	